



## CITY OF CORONADO

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
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TOM SMISEK  
MAYOR  
(619) 522-7322

February 28, 2005

Mr. Daniel Borunda  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Compliance Section  
US International Boundary and Water Commission  
4171 North Mesa Street, C-100  
El Paso, Texas 79902

Subject: Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement  
Clean Water Act Compliance at the South Bay International  
Wastewater Treatment Plant

Dear Mr. Borunda:

The City of Coronado, along with our neighbor the City of Imperial Beach, has been struggling with the significant public health and safety impacts, as well as the economic impacts, caused by the cross border contamination from the Tijuana River which ultimately impacts our beaches and our communities for over three decades. The primary source of this contamination is untreated sewage flows entering the Tijuana River during wet weather due to inadequate or non-existent infrastructure along Tijuana's western border area. The draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) does not deal with this crisis, therefore it does not provide a comprehensive approach to the treatment of sewage in the Tijuana River area. The draft SEIS does, however, include options to address the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant's need to provide secondary treatment.

The City of Coronado has reviewed the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and supports the preferred recommendation, Alternative 4C, "the operations of the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant as the advanced primary facility, with secondary treatment in Mexico (the Bajagua<sub>LLC</sub> proposal) discharging to the South Bay outfall," contingent on the project's stated assurance that all discharges from the project will meet all Clean Water Act requirements and all State of California water quality requirements. These assurances were key to our position of support. If they are not achieved, non-compliant discharges may lead to year-round or dry-weather beach closures which would put the public's health at risk. Such a condition would be unacceptable to our community.

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On behalf of the City of Coronado, we appreciate these efforts and would encourage that the process move forward expeditiously.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Smisek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and last name "Smisek" clearly distinguishable.

Thomas Smisek  
Mayor